



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes
November 16, 2015

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Angie Boyter
Roxanne Farrar
Deborah Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Bob McLaughlin
Andrew Monjan
Eletta Morse
Carolyn Rimes
S.K. Shin

Not Present

Pete Brunner
Barbara Catlin
Jan Horan
Julia Mattis

Office on Aging

Ofelia Ott

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Approve Agenda

Eletta Morse moved to accept the agenda, and Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Susan Hailman moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, and Bob McLaughlin seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Office on Aging Report **Caregiver Conference**

Jennie Rittenhouse shared that the Office's Caregiver Conference was a success. The conference was well attended and featured opening remarks by County Executive Kittleman, as well as a keynote by Barbara Catlin. Evaluations from both participants and exhibitors indicated that people were pleased with the day.

Elkridge Public Meeting

The Office will be holding two public meetings on the planned renovations of Elkridge 50+ Center and library. Meetings will be held Wednesday, December 9, from 2-4pm and 6:45-8:45pm at the Elkridge Library.

Ombudsman Program

Ofelia Ott, manager of the Home and Community Based Services Division of the Office on Aging, offered a short informational presentation on the Ombudsman Program, which provides advocacy for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

The program uses a combination of staff and volunteer ombudsman to investigate complaints, perform public education sessions, and provide referrals or information. The program investigates an average of 400 complaints each year.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee began by thanking everyone for attending the Legislative Breakfast.

The task force assembled to make recommendations on structural changes to the Departments of Citizen Services and Housing has submitted recommendations to the County Executive. The Executive will review the recommendations and will then make recommendations to the County Council.

Legislative Breakfast

The Commission discussed the Legislative Breakfast; those present indicated they felt the meeting had gone well. Many Commissioners were pleased that the delegation was interested in additional collaboration throughout the year although several were concerned about the potential lack of agreement within the room. A recap was suggested after the legislative session closes.

The Commission's Governmental Affairs committee will be exploring additional ways to collaborate with the delegation throughout the year.

Old Business

None.

CA SAC

Sharonlee shared that Columbia Association will be hiring an employee to help facilitate their Older Adult Plan goals and to make sure seniors are well served.

New Business

A motion was put forward by Bob McLaughlin and seconded by Debbie Fleischmann to cancel the December Commission meeting. All were in favor; the December meeting is cancelled.

The Commission currently has one vacancy and will have another in 2016 when Roxanne Farrar's term comes to an end. Sharonlee has begun meeting with the County regarding new members but encourages people to make recommendations. Recommendations can be made directly to Sharonlee via email.

Adjournment

Bob McLaughlin motioned to adjourn. Carolyn Rimes seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: January 25, 2016, Ellicott City Senior Center Annex, 7pm

Effective January 2016, the Commission meetings will return to the fourth Monday of each month.